Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,639,111 to Spencer et al. ("Spencer").

Claims 1-2 and 5 have been canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that on page 3, paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner inadvertently referred to claim 3 as being anticipated by Spencer instead of claim 4. Accordingly, it will be assumed that claim 3 is not anticipated by Spencer.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claim 4 recites a gas bag module comprising a module housing (12) and a covering cap (14), a side wall (15) on at least one of said module housing (12) and said covering cap (14), an outer wall (16) of said covering cap defining a front side of said module and an outer wall (18) of said module housing (12) defining a rear side of said module, whereby an outlet direction (R) is given that runs from said rear side to said front side of said module, said module housing (12) having first fastening elements (20) and said covering cap (14) having second fastening elements (22) which can be brought into engagement with said first fastening elements, characterized in that said first and second fastening elements (20, 22) are arranged and aligned with respect to said side wall (15) such that an engagement of said first and second fastening elements (20, 22), which prevents an uncoupling of said covering cap (14) and of said module housing (12) in a gas bag outlet direction (R), comes about through a movement of said fastening elements (20, 22) relative to each other in a direction (E) that runs along said side wall (15) and transversely to said outlet direction (R), said engagement of said first and second fastening elements (20, 22) comes about through a translational, relative movement between said covering cap (14) as a whole and said module housing (12) as a whole, said movement occurring along said side wall (15) and transversely to said outlet direction (R), and said first and second fastening elements (20, 22) form a bayonet closure.

Spencer does not disclose a bayonet closure as recited in claim 4. Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines a bayonet mount as "a mount in which prongs or bayonets on the rim of the lens or lens accessory of a camera fit into slots in the camera to facilitate quick attachment." A bayonet closure is a closure in which projecting elements are inserted into receiving elements in a first direction, and then locked by moving the projecting elements in a second direction. In Spencer, the sliding runners 70 and 72 engaged with channels 48 and 50 is not a bayonet closure. Accordingly, Spencer does not disclose the structure of claim 4 and therefore, claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 6 recites a gas bag module comprising a module housing (12) and a covering cap (14), a side wall (15) on at least one of said module housing (12) and said covering cap (14), an outer wall (16) of said covering cap defining a front side of said module and an outer wall (18) of said module housing (12) defining a rear side of said module, whereby an outlet direction (R) is given that runs from said rear side to said front side of said module, said module housing (12) having first fastening elements (20) and said covering cap (14) having second fastening elements (22) which can be brought into engagement with said first fastening elements, characterized in that said first and second fastening elements (20, 22) are arranged and aligned with respect to said side wall (15) such that an engagement of said first and second fastening elements (20, 22), which prevents an uncoupling of said covering cap (14) and of said module housing (12) in a gas bag outlet direction (R), comes about through a movement of said fastening elements (20, 22) relative to each other in a direction (E) that runs along said side wall (15) and transversely to said outlet direction (R), and said first fastening elements (20) are constructed in the form of straps and said second fastening elements (22) are constructed in the form of hooks.

Spencer does not disclose first fastening elements constructed in the form of straps and second fastening elements constructed in the form of hooks as recited in claim 6. In Spencer, slide locking channels 48 and 50 are not straps. Further, plastic runners 70 and 72 are not hooks. Accordingly, Spencer does not disclose the structure of claim 6 and therefore, claim 6 is allowable.

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,277,442 to Cuevas ("Cuevas").

As stated above, claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 3 recites a gas bag module comprising a module housing (12) and a covering cap (14), a side wall (15) on at least one of said module housing (12) and said covering cap (14), an outer wall (16) of said covering cap defining a front side of said module and an outer wall (18) of said module housing (12) defining a rear side of said module, whereby an outlet direction (R) is given that runs from said rear side to said front side of said module, said module housing (12) having first fastening elements (20) and said covering cap (14) having second fastening elements (22) which can be brought into engagement with said first fastening elements, characterized in that said first and second fastening elements (20, 22) are arranged and aligned with respect to said side wall (15) such that an engagement of said first and second fastening elements (20, 22), which prevents an uncoupling of said covering cap (14) and of said module housing (12) in a gas bag outlet direction (R), comes about through a movement of said fastening elements (20, 22) relative to each other in a direction (E) that runs along said side wall (15) and transversely to said outlet direction (R), and said engagement of said first and second fastening elements (20, 22) comes about through a rotary, relative movement between said covering cap (14) as a whole and said module housing (12) as a whole.

Cuevas does not disclose that engagement of first and second fastening members come about through a rotary, relative movement between a covering cap as a whole and a module housing as a whole as recited in claim 3. In Cuevas, tabs 48 are on the inflator housing 48, while retainer slots 78 are on the retainer wall 29. That is, Cuevas does not disclose that cover 26 has fastening elements, like the cover recited in claim 3. Further, Cuevas does not disclose explicitly or implicitly that rotary movement is employed to engage cover 26 with retainer wall 29. Accordingly, Cuevas does not disclose the structure of claim 3, and therefore, claim 3 is allowable.

Claim 7 has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 8-9 depend from claim 7 and are allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 7 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claims 8-9 is respectfully requested.

New claim 10 has been added by this amendment. Claim 10 depends from claim 6 and is allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 6 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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